EXHIBIT A

Disclosure YOR8-2000-0487

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Required fields are marked with the asterisk (*) and must be filled in to complete the form .

Summary

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Inventors with Lotus Notes IDs

Inventors: Alex Zlatsin/Watson/IBM, Dimitri Kanevsky/Watson/IBM

Inventor Name > denotes primary contact	Inventor Serial	Div/Dept	Manager Serial	Manager Name
> Zlatsin, Alexander	085257	07/F6YR	348159	Dwyer, Maureen N.
Kanevsky, Dimitri	202817	22/S1GA	660473	Gopinath, Ramesh A.

Inventors without Lotus Notes IDs

IDT Selection

Main Idea

Title of disclosure (in English)

Network of volunteers for people with disabilities

Idea of disclosure

1. Describe your invention, stating the problem solved (if appropriate), and indicating the advantages of using the invention.
The services that help people with disabilities (PWD) are inadequate.

2. How does the invention solve the problem or achieve an advantage,(a description of "the invention", including figures inline as appropriate)?
The new system will create/maintain the network of volunteers and their cellular devices. PWD send request for help to central service. The request is processed and matched with available volunteers from the database. The available volunteers will receive the request to provide help
Ex. person needs a sign language interpreter - volunteer in nearby area will get a request
Ex. person needs medicine to be delivered - volunteer in nearby area will get a request

3. If the same advantage or problem has been identified by others (inside/outside IBM), how have those others solved it and does your solution differ and why is it better?

4. If the invention is implemented in a product or prototype, include technical details, purpose, disclosure details to others and the date of that implementation.

***Critical Questions (Questions 1 - 7 must be answered)**
Patent Value Tool (Optional - this may be used by the inventor and attorney to assist with the evalu
Post Disclosure Text & Drawings

(Form Revised 7/17/07

FULL NAME OF INVENTOR(S): Alexander Zlatsin
DIV/DEPT: 07/F6YR
BLDG/ZIP: 801/05-009
TEL. NUM.: 914-945-3393
INVENTOR SERIAL NUMBER 085257

FULL NAME OF INVENTOR(S): Dimitri Kanevsky
DIV/DEPT: 22/S1GA
BLDG/ZIP: 801/23-116A
TEL. NUM.: 914-945-2834
INVENTOR SERIAL NUMBER 202817

Volunteer Network Support Group for People with Disabilities

Field of the Invention

The invention is related to a business method for providing help to people with disabilities by organizing a network of volunteers and technical means for communicating for supporting the network.

Prior Art-

Often times people need assistance when no professional help is available. For example, if someone on a train is hurt or in need of medical assistance, then a loudspeaker may announce that a doctor is needed. A similar scenario may occur on an airplane. This is an example of being able to help someone who is in obvious need of medical attention and people have noticed. Another example of people with disabilities receiving aid from people in their near surroundings is when a blind person is attempting to cross the street. In some instances, a passing stranger may assist the blind person in crossing the street safely.

These are examples of how people with disabilities may receive assistance from others in their environment. But, there are numerous other examples and scenarios where people in need

of assistance do not receive any aid. It is necessary to set up a system where people with many types of disabilities can receive assistance from volunteers.

Summary of our Invention-

The main idea of our invention is that people who would like to assist people with disabilities may join a service and receive a wearable device or a palmtop that can communicate tirelessly through a network. People that join the volunteer network must describe the type of disability they are willing/certified to assist with, available time and other relevant information. People with disabilities will also join the volunteer service network and be provided with a wearable wireless device (i.e. Palm top). Disabled persons will also specify their particular disability as well as services that they may require. An example of how these volunteers may be of use is: When a volunteer is going to work in the morning on the train the service can connect them through the network to a blind person, and the volunteer may assist the blind person by reading a newspaper through the wireless device (like a cellular telephone). Another example is if a volunteer knows sign language and a hearing impaired person is in need of an interpreter, the audio of the conversation of the disabled person can be transmitted via the wireless device to the volunteer who can, in turn, translate into sign language and be visually depicted on a screen of the disabled person; or if the volunteer is nearby they can send a signal to the hearing-impaired person that they will come and assist them as soon as possible. Global positioning may be used in order to assist in determining the positions of volunteers and disabled persons to provide more efficient and expedient assistance to people who are near to each other.

Another example is, if a person is unable to move (i.e. Quadrapalegic, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, etc...) And needs some type of goods, whether clothing or food. This person

may contact the Volunteer Network with a request and the system can find a volunteer who is near or maybe even in the same building who can bring the requested item. If any prescriptions or medicines need to be delivered by somebody who is in the vicinity of another volunteer, the system can find them and request the two volunteers to cooperate in the retrieval and delivery of the medicines (or other goods). A more detailed description of the methodology and examples may be found in the detailed description of figures.

Brief Description of Figures

Fig. 1 A general block scheme

Fig. 2 Example of database of PwD

Fig. 3 Example of database of volunteers

Fig. 4 A matching server description

Fig. 5 A cellular device description

Fig. 6 A flow chart of the method

Objects of the invention.

One objects of the invention is a business method for organizing volunteers for helping people with disabilities.

Another object of the invention are technical means that support communication between volunteers and PwD through network.

Another object of the invention is a mechanism for choosing volunteers that match Pwd needs.

Detailed Description of Figures-

Module 100 in figure 1 symbolizes the general network. People 103, 104 that carry the wireless/cellular device 108 are connected to the network 100. The wireless device 108 may also transmit to another wireless device 108. If there is a crowd of people 130 and the person 103 needs assistance but does not know where to go on street 140, person 103 can send a signal to person 104 via the wireless devices 108 that help is needed. This signal from 108 to 108 is sent locally and not through the network because these people are not far from each other and the volunteer 104 receives the message via audio or beep/text. Because these people are not far from each other volunteer 104 can notice the disabled person/person in need of assistance and walk/drive over and assist the person.

Another scenario for the implementation of this device is on a train 106 and there are two people with two devices, person 111 with device 109 and person 107 with device 109, sitting in different parts of the train. If person 107 needs assistance with a conversation (a sign interpreter) the person sends a signal through the device 109 through a cellular provider 120 that sends a signal to the global positioning system 110 that notifies the person of the volunteer's location. The device 109 then sends this information to a local cellular provider that sends a signal to any volunteers on the train (that may know sign language) through their device 109 that may then come to the person in need of assistance 107 and translate for them. The network is connected to a database 101 that contains a description of all of the people with disabilities that are connected to the server 105. A detailed description of the information on the database will be discussed in another figure. Another database of volunteers 102 is connected to the server 105 via the network 100. The particulars of the volunteer database will be further discussed in another figure.

The matching server 105 uses the information in servers 101 and 102 to notify people with disabilities and volunteers what types of services it may offer. For example, the matching server may find some people who need a newspaper read to them because they are blind during a certain time. The matching server finds that there are volunteers available to assist the blind people (b/c they may be riding home from work on the train) and the server contacts the volunteers and asks them to read the newspaper/book or other info to the disable persons over the cellular phone. As in our previous example where person 111 can read a newspaper over the cellular phone to person in need of assistance 140 at home 150.

There two different ways how people may find themselves. The global positioning system that finds the coordinates of people) where two people are connected to the network and they require assistance they send a message through the network to two people who may be able to assist them and the global positioning system helps them find each other.

The following is the detailed description of GPS:

The GPS satellites are highly accurate atomic clocks. They broadcast their current time using extremely wide band signals. The receiver picks up the time from (at least) four satellites and measures the difference in arrival times from each. Because the satellites are at known coordinates in geosychronous orbit, the differences in arrival time of the radio signals can be used to determine the distance the receiver is from each satellite. This is normally accurate to a few meters. However, the military perturbs the time signals using random noise to control the accuracy in what is known as "selective availability." This hopefully foils use of the GPS system by our enemies (whatever that means.)

There also exist D-GPS or differential GPS systems, in which case a fixed ground based transmitter sends its location and time to a D-GPS receiver. These systems send "corrections" to the time signals that are perturbed by the military. In so doing, the GPS accuracy can jump to a few meters.

Using more advanced techniques, for stationary objects, it is possible to actually achieve accuracy in the centimeter range (essentially using a form of interferometry.

In any case, there is no signal sent out from the GPS receivers... They know where they are relative to the GPS satellites, which are all in know spatial coordinates.

The matching server may also have access to information about routes and local maps in order to assist the users in finding each other. The matching server also has access to a disabled persons needs, addresses, necessary medications and other information from the database of people with needs and disabilities 101.

In figure 2 we have a detailed example of the database of people with disabilities 101. Module 200 contains the name of the person with disabilities. Module 201 is a description of the person's needs. For instance, 201 may say that the person needs a newspaper read to them, medicine or groceries brought to them, or a conversation translated into sign/or other language. Module 202 notes the type of handicap- blind, hearing-impaired, paralyzed, etc... Module 203 gives a history of prior assistance and help that may guide future volunteers as well as for statistical information that can aid the matching server in creating more efficient and satisfactory service. The matching server can use this information to help plan outlines for assistance for future volunteers. Module 204 is a list of volunteers who helped the disabled person in the past which is connected to the history 203, in order to find a volunteer with experience that is able to help quickly. Module 205 gives a description of methods of how to assist a disabled person. For instance, if a person needs a newspaper read to them, the system may describe a method for how a volunteer can read the newspaper over the phone; or, if a person needs to go to an office or receive information, then, the system notes that the person requires an interpreter.

Figure 3 is a detailed example of a database of volunteers 102. Module 300 indicates the name of the volunteer. Module 301 describes the skills of the volunteers, for example- sign language or masseuse therapist. Module 302 gives a description of services that the volunteer

could offer. Module 303 gives a history of people the volunteer has helped. This information assists the matching server in assembling a statistical history that aids optimizing volunteer assistance to people with disabilities. Module 304 gives a list of the people with disabilities that the volunteer has helped. Module 305 gives a list of expenses of the volunteer so they may be reimbursed or tax-deductible like a donation.

Figure 4 is a detailed outline of the matching server 105. The matching server receives input from the database of people with disabilities 101 and the database of volunteers 102. The input goes into the communication module 402 in the matching server. The communication module is connected to the network and uses data from the databases in order to choose the correct volunteer that may assist a given person with disabilities. The communication module 402 also receives requests from the person with disabilities 400 through the network (wireless). When the communication module receives a request it contacts both of the databases 101 and 102 and decides to which volunteers it can send messages. In other words, when the module chooses an appropriate number of volunteers and people with disabilities this information enters into module 403, the request processor.

From the moment a request from a person with disabilities comes in the information goes into the request processor that processes the information of the person (names, needs, location 405). The location may be determined with a global positioning system through cellular devices. After a processor has determined the name of the person it does a search in volunteer database 404 to determine which volunteers have the functions that may assist the person with disabilities. It also retrieves an image of the person with disabilities in order to determine which type of people have already assisted the person. This information goes into the comparator 406 where volunteers with different functions, abilities, and certifications are compared as well as their

Figure 6 is a flowchart of the invention. Module 600 is when the person with disabilities sends a request for help. In 601 the matching server searches the people with disabilities and volunteers to find a list of candidates and methods of help. In module 602 (optional b/c can give coordinates) defines the locations via Global Positioning system. Module 603 sends a request to the list of candidates to treat locations. Module 604 is interacting with candidates to find the final choice. Module 605 sending final request and wait for conformation. Module 606 volunteers perform work to help people with disabilities after they have been chosen.

Claims:

1. Business model: people who would like to assist people with disabilities may join a service and receive a wearable device or a palmtop that can communicate tirelessly through a network. People that join the volunteer network must describe the type of disability they are willing/certified to assist with, available time and other relevant information. People with disabilities will also join the volunteer service network and be provided with a wearable wireless device .

2. Describe interface for communicating between volunteers and PwD with network.

3. Describe explicit examples of how volunteers help (from text).

4. Describe technical means that involve GPS and databases for selecting and matching volunteers and PwD

5. Flow chart: Module 600 is when the person with disabilities sends a request for help. In 601 the matching server searches the people with disabilities and volunteers to find a list of candidates and methods of help. In module 602 (optional b/c can give coordinates) defines the locations via Global Positioning system. Module 603 sends a request to the list of candidates to treat locations. Module 604 is interacting with candidates to find the final choice. Module 605 sending final request and wait for conformation. Module 606 volunteers perform work to help people with disabilities after they have been chosen

Abstract

Summary of our Invention-

The main idea of our invention is that people who would like to assist people with disabilities may join a service and receive a wearable device or a palmtop that can communicate tirelessly through a network. People that join the volunteer network must describe the type of disability they are willing/certified to assist with, available time and other relevant information. People with disabilities will also join the volunteer service network and be provided with a wearable wireless device (i.e. Palm top). Disabled persons will also specify their particular disability as well as services that they may require.

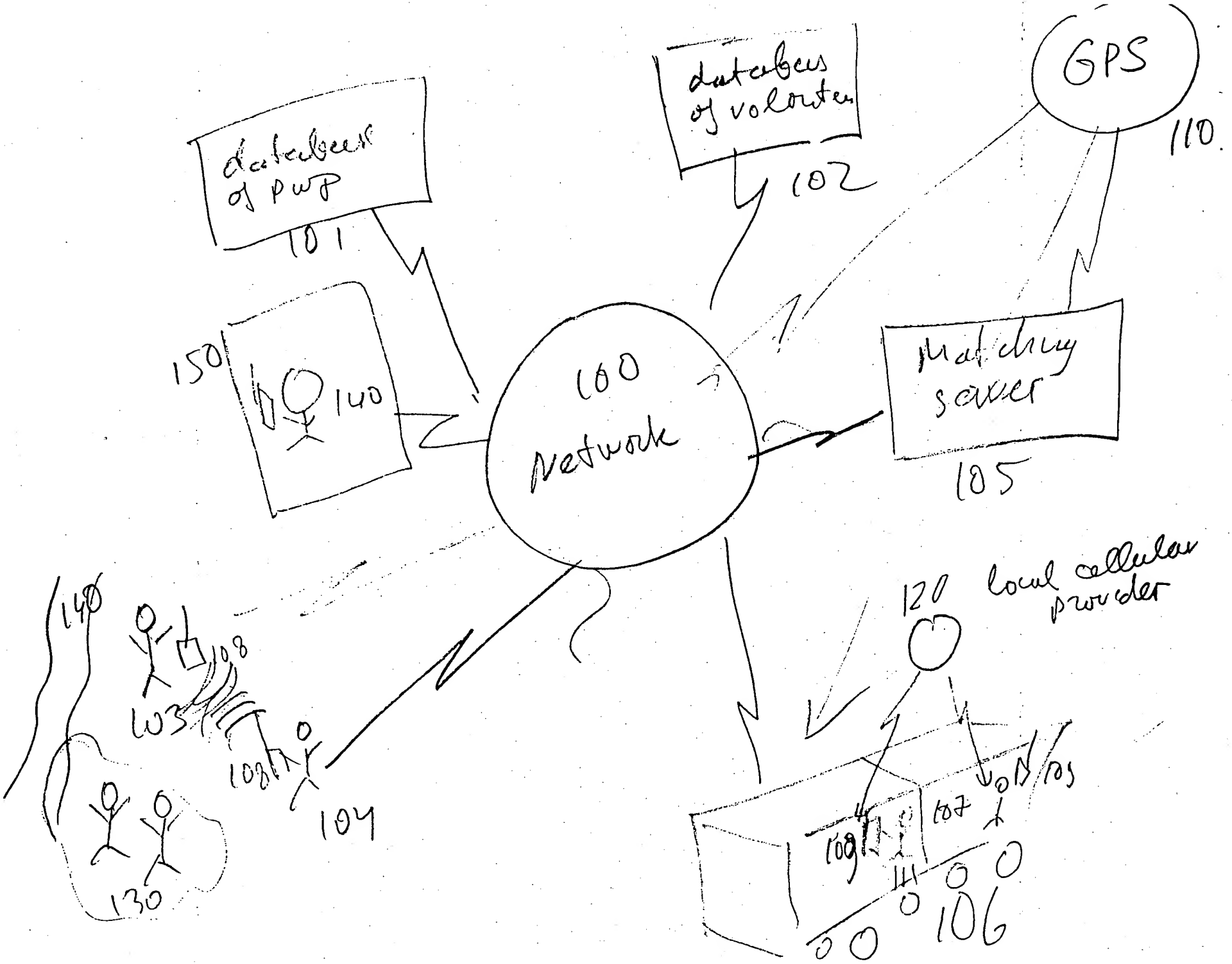
database of PWP
101
database of volunteers
102
GPS
110
150
140
100
Network
matching server
105
140
108
103
102
104
130
120
local cellular provider
107
109
111
106

FIG. 1

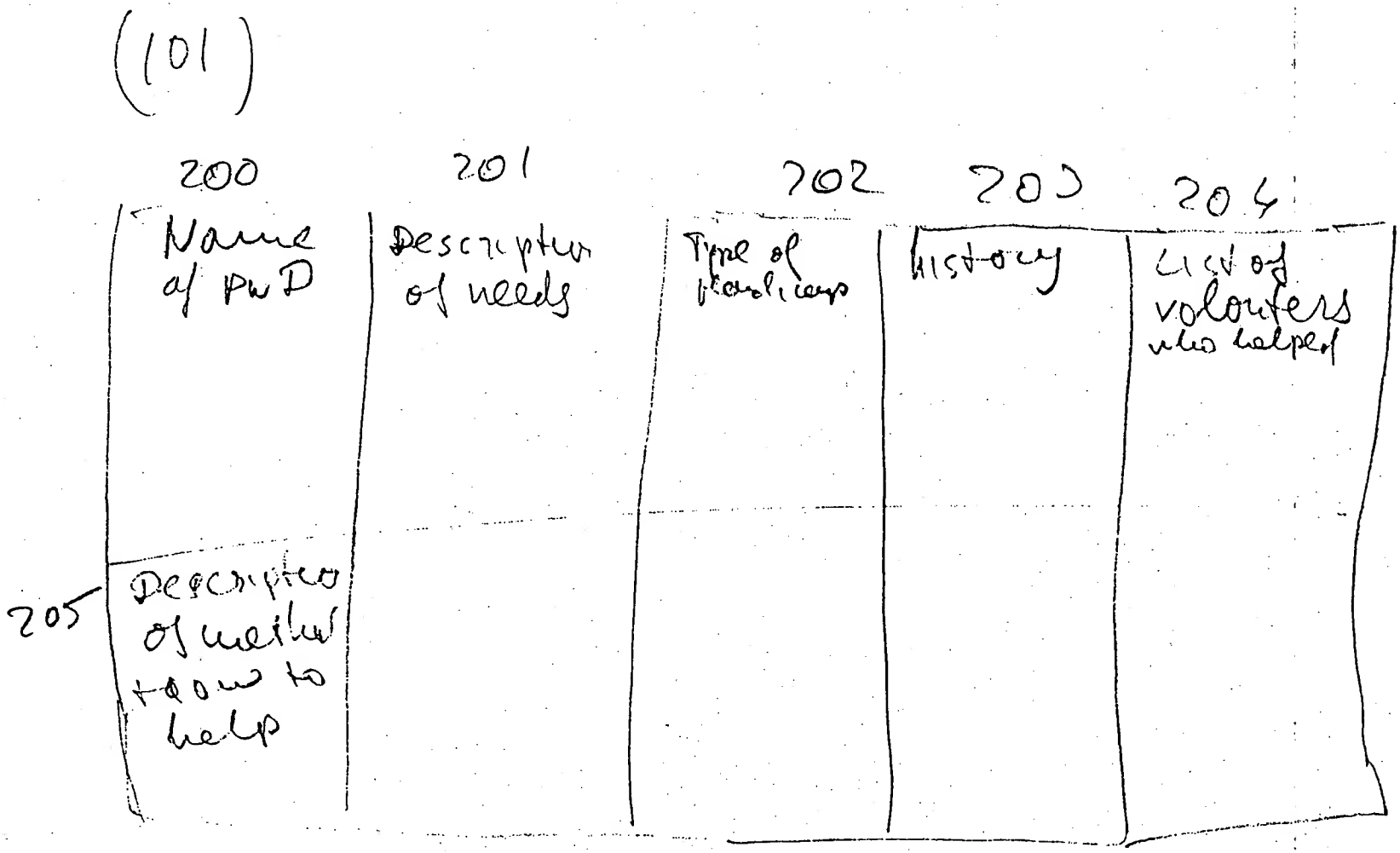
(101)
200
201
202
203
204
Name of PwD
Description of needs
Type of disabilities
history
List of volunteers who helped
205
Description of method how to help

Fig. 2

(102)

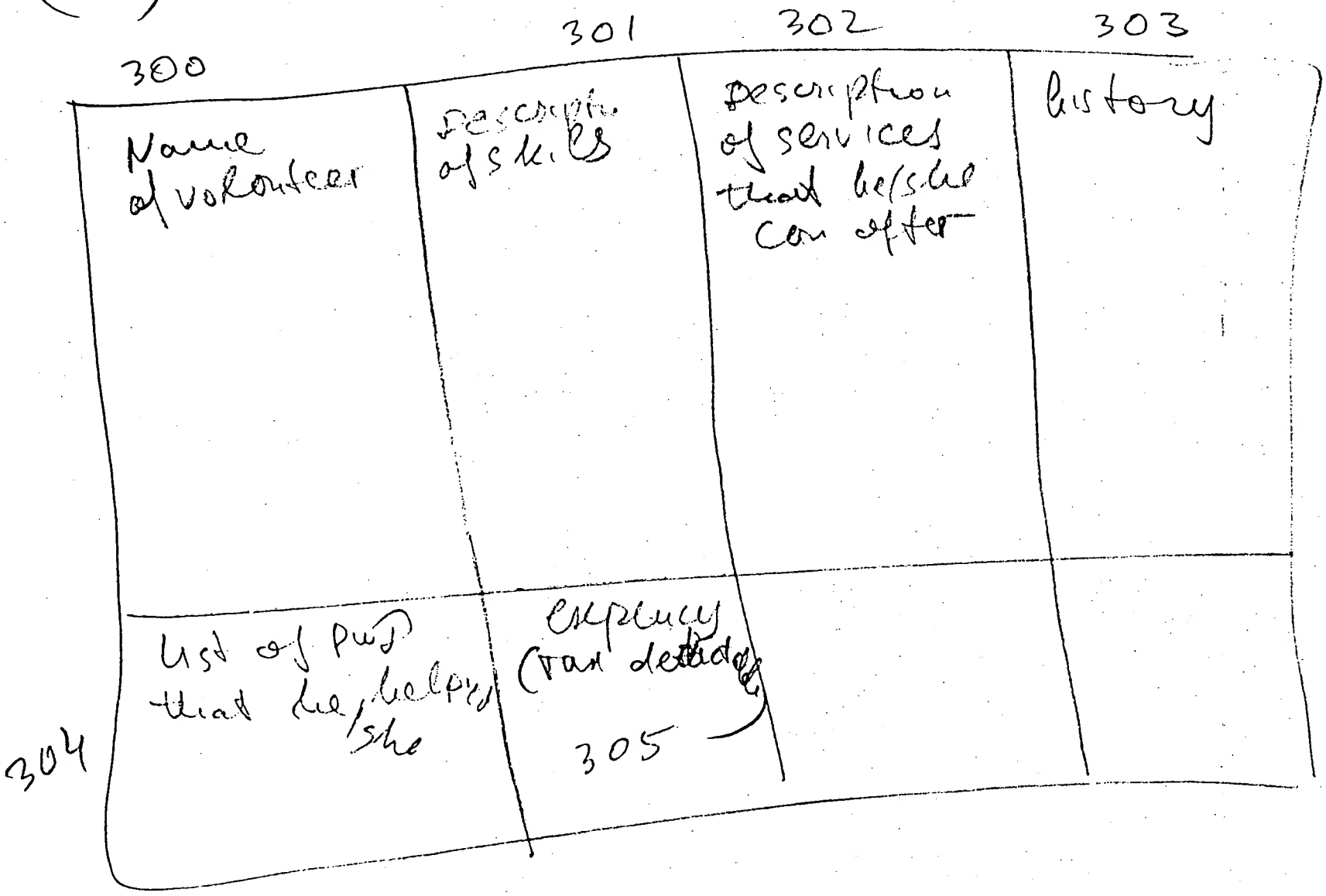
300
301
302
303
Name of volunteer
Descrip. of skills
Description of services that he/she can offer
history
List of pers that he/she helps
Emergency (can detail)
304
305

Fig. 3

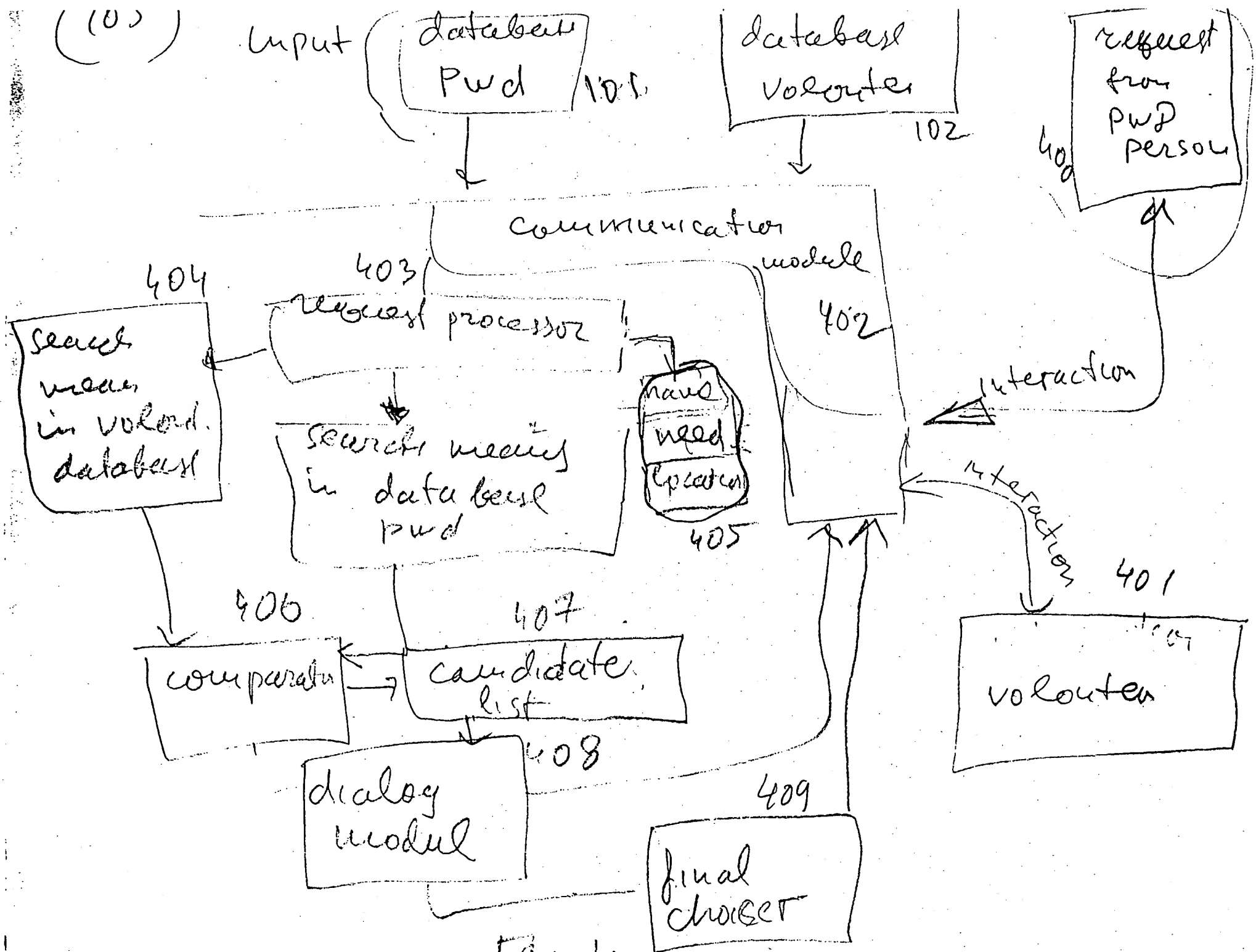
(10)
input
database PwD
101
database volonter
102
request from PwD person
400
communication module
402
403
request processor
404
search mean in volont. database
search means in database pwd
have need
operation
405
interaction
interaction
401
volonter
406
comparator
407
candidate list
408
dialog modul
409
final choice

Fig. 4

(108)

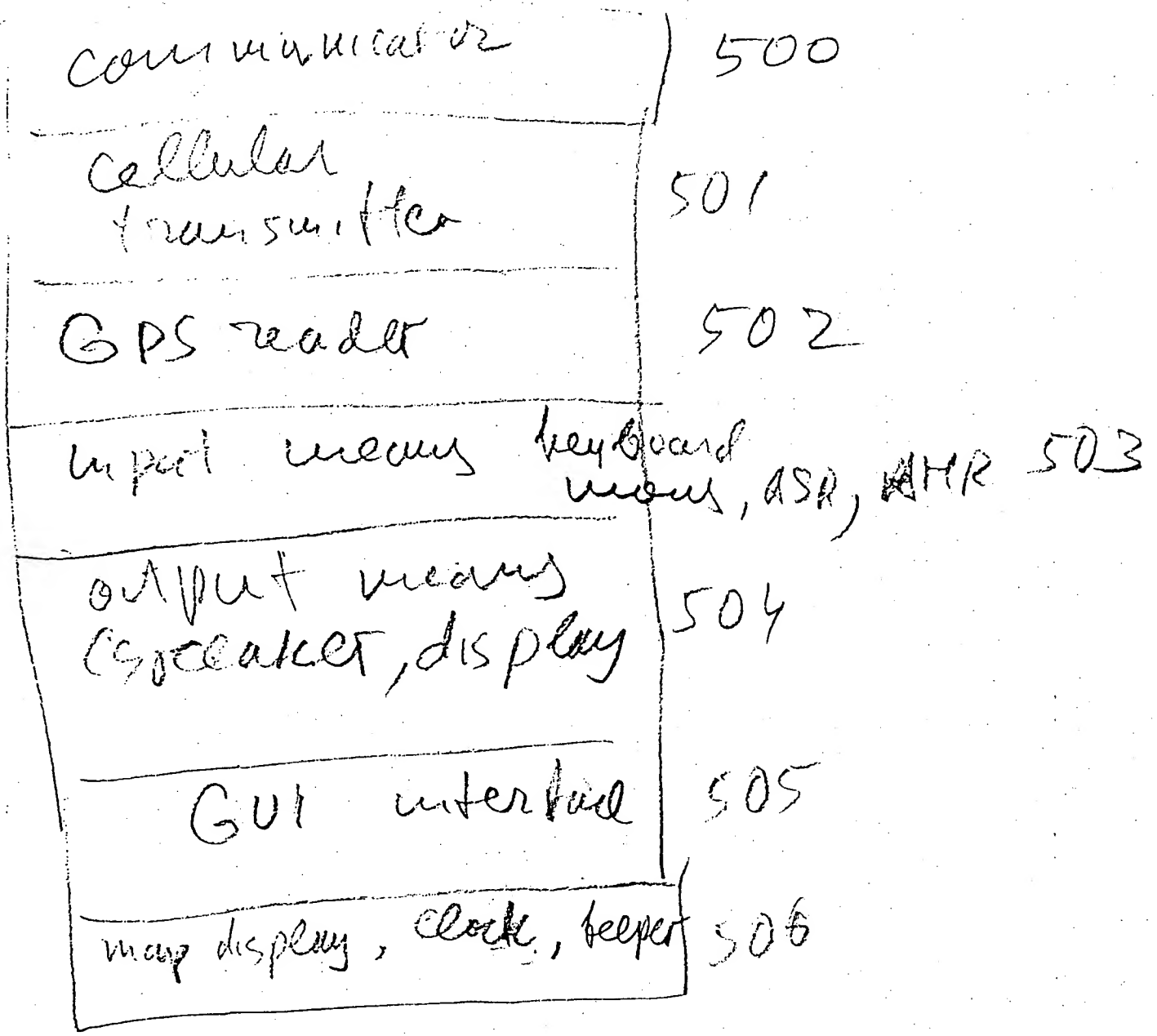
communicator
500
cellular transmitter
501
GPS reader
502
input means keyboard means, ASR, AHR
503
output means speaker, display
504
GUI interface
505
map display, clock, beeper
506

Fig. 5

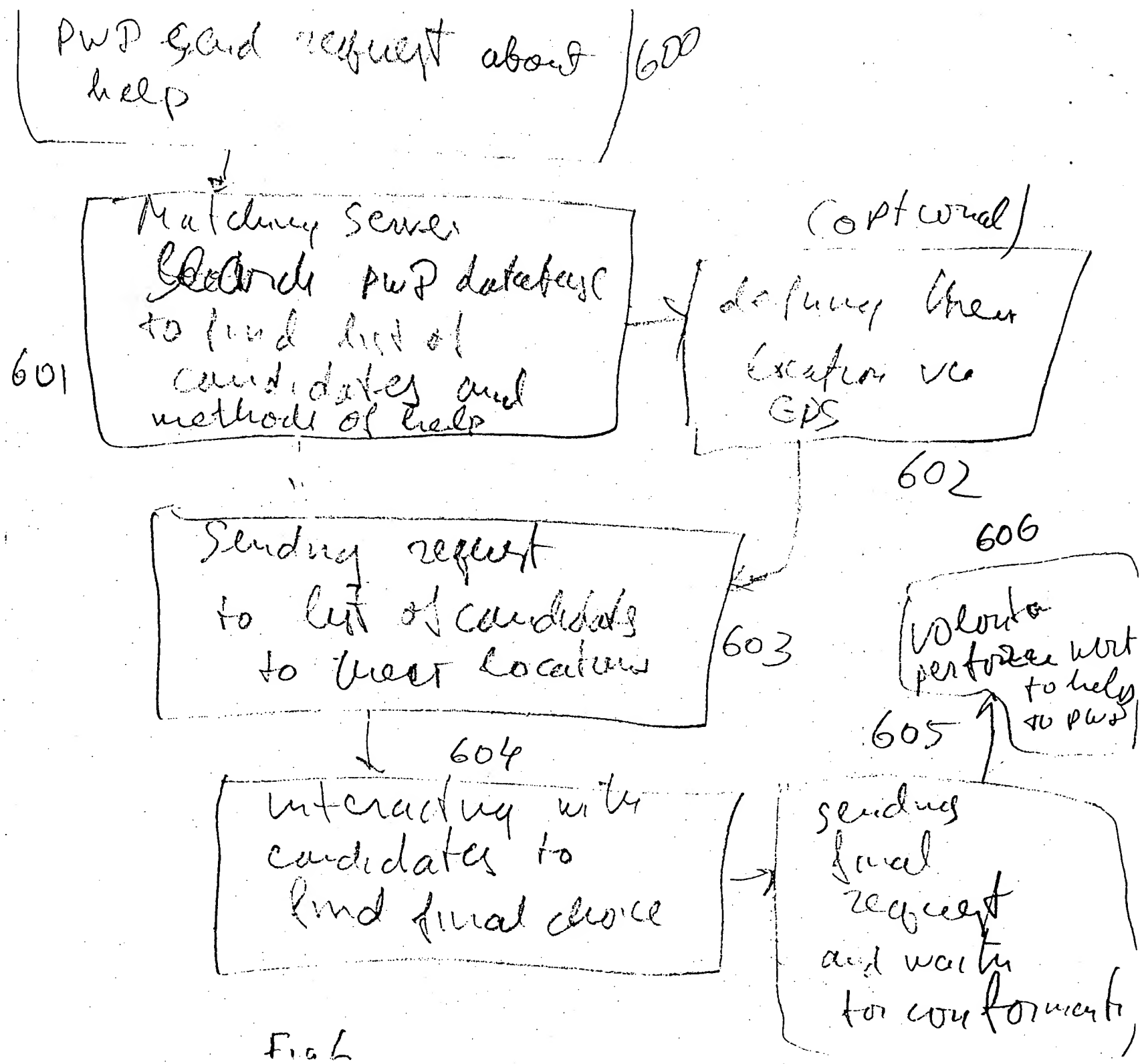
PWP send request about help
600
Matching Server
Search PWP database to find list of candidates and method of help
601
(optional)
obtaining User Location via GPS
602
Sending request to list of candidates to User Location
603
604
interacting with candidates to find final choice
606
volunteer perform work to help to PWP
605
sending final request and wait for confirmation

Fig 6